

Application No.: 09/869,096
Amendment Dated: February 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of: December 1, 2006

YAO-4343US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inoue (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,008). Also, claims 4, 5, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi (EP0782334 A2) in view of Katsumata (U.S. Patent No. 5,276,515). Claims 6, 12, 14 and 15, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, the features of claim 6 have been incorporated into claim 4. Claim 6 has been cancelled. Claims 12 and 15 have also been cancelled. The dependency of claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 4.

In view of the amendments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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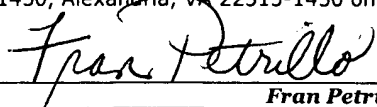
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February 20, 2007


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